

*A* On page 24, please replace the third full paragraph as follows:

Additional design details regarding the type of thermal jacket which is suitable for use as part of the present invention are disclosed in the copending patent application Serial No. 09/584,859, filed on June 1, 2000, by inventors Lombard and Wang and assigned attorney docket number 9105-5. This copending patent application is hereby expressly incorporated by reference for its entire disclosure.

*A2* On page 30, please replace the second full paragraph as follows:

Additional design details regarding the types of stators which are suitable for the present invention, the arrangement of these stators, whether rotary, linear, or both, and the alloy flow patterns which correspond to each stator arrangement according to the present invention are disclosed in the copending patent application Serial No. 09/585,060, filed on June 1, 2000, by inventors Lu, Wang, and Norville, and assigned attorney docket number 9105-6. This copending patent application is hereby expressly incorporated by reference for its entire disclosure.

*A3* On page 33, please replace the third full paragraph as follows:

The present invention has been described in the context of preparing a volume of slurry for a shot sleeve. The column of slurry has been put in the context of small, medium, and large amounts with a corresponding weight range. It has also envisioned that a suitable slurry composition can be created in a somewhat continuous manner by way of an integrated slurry maker. The design details regarding this type of apparatus are disclosed in the copending patent application, Serial No. 09/585,502, filed June 1, 2000, by inventors Norville, Wang, and Lombard, and assigned docket number 9105-7.